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Debate on Voice of America

SPEECH

OF

HON. JAMES G. FULTON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 20, 1958

Mr. FULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Bow]. I know George Allen who heads the United States Information Agency and know him very well. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for 12 years I have watched George Allen on his various responsible Government assignments, and I want you Representatives here to know he is from North Carolina and not South Carolina and, secondly, he is as fine a southern gentleman as I have ever met.

In our United States Foreign Service officer group, he is as competent a Foreign Service officer as we have in the United States service. George Allen is thoroughly experienced in the Mideast. As Mr. Taxing has said, the time has been short that he has had responsibility for this Agency. George Allen has been there a little less than a year. He should certainly have the time to reorganize this difficult Agency and do the job that we, in the Congress, expect of him.

This situation where there are so many cries for sudden punishment is like the new boy in school: If you are taking somebody to the woodshed, be sure you take the right boy to the woodshed. You have got the wrong one when you take George Allen.

May I say this to you: I was abroad last year, and one of our duties on the European subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee was to see how the Voice of America was operating, and, likewise, Radio Free Europe, which is not Government-operated. I found they were both well-run and managed. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, certain Members in Congress sometimes get too excited about programs that the United States is doing abroad because we are not patient enough. We in the United States are doing all right abroad; we are not losing friends, we have more friends than, many of you would know. We have good basic friends.

But when the United States tries to give what is the truth on the radio and say what our promises will be, it takes time to show that often other's statements are lies, and that they do not live up to their promises. So, of course, these poor people around the world are taken in by grand promises and little performances.

The proof of the pudding, Mr. Speaker, is that these people in foreign countries are still voting overwhelmingly in the United Nations for the general policies of the United States of America and the policy of the free world, for peace and development. Surely, we fall behind occasionally, but we are so often ahead, it is a good spur to us to have to do our best in hard competition.

So, I say let us get this particular United States radio installation recommended by the amendment of Frank Bow, and we should pass the amendment, likewise, to give a vote of confidence in the Voice of America and the new leadership of the United States information program under that fine fellow, George Allen.

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